

Hold Aloft the Noble Banner of Communism

Com. Ghosh's Exhortation to the People

Under the auspices of the Socialist Unity Centre of India, a school of politics was held at Calcutta on and from 2nd July to 5th July last. The school was conducted by Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the leader, teacher and General Secretary of the Party and was attended by 1576 of its workers. Every morning on these days separate group discussions, involving those who stayed at the camp of the school, were also conducted.

In course of his speeches Com. Ghosh discussed the historical basis of dialectical materialism, the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism, the fundamental principles of dialectical materialism, particularly the theory of contradiction, the basic differences of dialectical materialism with all other philosophies, both idealist and materialist and its superiority over other philosophies, the difference between bourgeois humanist culture and proletarian culture, the necessity of continuous upliftment of the culture and ethical standard of the leaders and ordinary workers of a revolutionary working class party, the process of formation of a *real* communist party, the concept of collective leadership, the fundamental teachings of Marxism-Leninism and its concretisation on the soil of each and every country according to concrete conditions obtaining there, different questions concerning internationalism, mutual relationship between different communist parties, the international situation in general, particularly the present rift in the world communist camp centring round ideological differences between different communist parties, the imperative necessity of restoring the unity of the world communist camp in taking united actions against the imperialist powers, notwithstanding the conduction of ideological struggle to correctly resolve the ideological differences between different communist parties, the present stage of the Indian revolution in the background of the present international situation, why the

political lines of people's democratic revolution and the national democratic revolution, as formulated respectively by CPI(M) and the CPI, were wrong and would objectively boil down to a programme of bourgeois national reformism, the necessity at the present stage of development of democratic movement, of forging unity of the left and democratic forces and the united mass struggle in our country and the modus operandi of a revolutionary party while functioning in a united front, namely, on the one hand to maintain and strengthen the unity of the left and democratic parties and forces and of the united mass struggles; and, on the other hand, to conduct ideological struggles in such a way as to expose the incorrectness of the political lines of other parties, correctly educate, train and revolutionise the people, isolate the non-revolutionary compromising parties from the masses and help in the crystallisation of the correct political line for revolution and the emergence and establishment of the leadership of the revolutionary working class party over the masses of the people, their organisations for conducting day-to-day movements and class struggles and over these class struggles and democratic movements without weakening the unity of the left and democratic parties and forces and the united mass struggles. The lucid and inspiring way of Com. Ghosh's speeches not only made these complicated subjects easily understandable but also went straight into the mind of the

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Central Government Bans Strike by FCI Employees

New Delhi, July 6—Now the fascist attack has come upon the employees of the Food Corporation of India. The Central Government has banned with immediate effect any strike by the employees of the FCI for a period of six months under the Defence of India Rules. This follows a similar attack by the Central Government banning any strike by the railwaymen in our country for a period of six months under the DIR.

The plea taken by the Government in the instant case is nothing new. It is the same old plea, which the Congress rulers had taken in the past many times, to justify their fascist attacks on different sections of our people. The plea is that the strike by the employees of the FCI would "prejudicially affect the defence of India and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community." Even the most politically unconscious lay man will find this plea of the Central Government too hard and too big to swallow.

Our people have been seeing that whenever hard-pressed by some reactionary anti-people policy of the Government they try to organise themselves and launch a legitimate democratic mass movement to register their protest against the policy, the Congress rulers raise the bogey of defence of India and mount fascist attacks on them. In plain language, this defence of India, a plea taken by the

Government to brutally suppress people's movements and curtail their hard-won democratic rights, is nothing but defence of vested interests, defence of the ruling bourgeoisie, defence of the Congress rulers. Then, the less is said of the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community, the better. Even after the taking over by the state of the wholesale trade in wheat, when the big agriculturists, the hoarders, the speculators and the unscrupulous wholesale dealers by various anti-social means are cornering and concealing stocks of wheat and thereby forcing the poor people to starve, it, according to the Government, is not prejudicially affecting the maintenance of supplies essential to the life of the community and, so, the Defence of India Rules is not invoked to compel the food racketeers to behave properly. When the economy of the country, employment of hundreds of thousands of

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How Land Reforms Act is Being Implemented in West Bengal

Calcutta, June 30—The ruling Congress and its Government in West Bengal have been waxing eloquent on how conscientiously they are implementing the law relating to the protection of the bargadars and thereby rapidly improving their condition. We can cite thousands of concrete instances to disprove this tall claim of the Congress rulers. But, for the present, we desist from citing those instances, lest their authenticity might be questioned by the powers-that-be, and so confine ourselves in quoting a passage from a case study conducted by D. Bandyopadhyay IAS, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal. The case study relates to Indra Lohar, "a simple, hard-working and loyal bargadar (share-cropper) of village Vora, Police-Station—Vishnupur, Dist.—Bankura in West Bengal." The passage runs thus :

"We may now summarise in chronological order the ordeal that Indra Lohar had to undergo in his attempt to enforce his rights that were bestowed on him under the West Bengal Land Reforms Act, 1955 as amended upto-date. Being faced with forcible eviction from his land he filed one case under section 144 Cr. P.C. against Badal Karmakar and Sachinandan Mondal on 29.1.72—Case No. 16 M.P. of 1972, Vishnupur. It was followed by two other cases involving him in the Court of the Sub-Divisional Executive Magistrate (Case Nos. 25 M.P. and 62 M.P., 1972) In the meantime on 18.4.72 the Police in an unauthorised manner, acting presumably under section 154 I.P.C., seized and took away large portion of the paddy that he had harvested as a bargadar in the year 1971-72. On 23rd May, 1972, a title suit was filed against him in the Court of the Munsif, Vishnupur, and he was enjoined from pursuing his original case No. 16 M.P. in the Executive Magistrate's Court. On 27.5.72 he was mercilessly assaulted, his house was despoiled and the rest of the paddy was looted. He was admitted to the hospital on the same day as an indoor patient. On 31st May, 1972 he filed a petition protesting against Munsif's order before the Executive Magistrate for which he was hauled up by the High Court on 4th August, 1972 in Criminal

Miscellaneous case No. 1307 of 1972. From Vora he travelled to Calcutta, appeared before the High Court, tendered apology and was acquitted. Thus, he became directly involved in 5 judicial proceedings including a contempt of court proceeding in High Court in course of 8 months from January 1972 to August 1972. He was assaulted and his house was twice ransacked—once by the strong arm of law and then by the ruffians engaged by his landowner.....Persecuted by his Jotedar, assaulted and plundered by his hired hoodlums, harassed and intimidated by the police, restrained by the Civil Court from preferring his legal claim before the appropriate legal forum, hauled up by the "High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal" for lowering the "dignity and prestige" of the Court, Indra Lohar lost his will to fight for his right..... Maimed and feeble, defeated and dejected, Indra has now bowed down before the majesty of the established order and stands dispossessed of his land". (emphasis added)

Mr. Bandyopadhyay is not the leader of any left party or any professional agitator or a person with leftist leanings. He was the Director of Land Records and is now the Labour Secretary of the Government of West Bengal, a top officer of the established order whose victim Indra Lohar is. So there is no chance of any exaggeration in his case study

in favour of the poor bargadar. What does this case study show? It shows that (1) the law relating to the protection of the bargadars is only on paper now being nakedly violated with impunity by the Jotedars, (2) the police in connivance with and at the instance of the Jotedars assaults the bargadars, ransacks their houses and loots their properties, (3) whatever the leaders of the Congress and the ministers of the Congress Government say, they in reality support the rich big landowners, otherwise the police could not act illegally in favour of the Jotedars against the bargadars and the anti-social elements could not severely assault the bargadars and loot their belongings, (4) the dictum that every one is equal in the eye of law is only a myth; on the contrary, in a capitalist society like ours law, legal system and legal institutions in the long run basically serve the interests of the ruling bourgeois class, here the rural bourgeoisie, (5) one may take the help of law in furthering mass movements but litigation is not the way of securing even legally recognised rights of the bargadars and other rural poor, (6) in the absence of organised mass movements to implement laws and of a strong organisation of the rural poor led by a real revolutionary party, even existing provisions of law are seldom implemented in practice by the authorities and (7) not individual attempts but united mass struggles alone with the individuals discharging therein their roles correctly and sincerely can secure the rights of the bargadars and other rural poor.

In West Bengal there are thousands of bargadars who have been treated like Indra Lohar. some have been treated even worse. The rains are on. The Jotedars are already at work to forcibly evict the bargadars from the lands they have been

cultivating for decades. If these unjust and unlawful attacks cannot be repulsed, thousands and thousands more of bargadars will be similarly treated, as Indra Lohar has been treated, at the hands of their respective landowners, the ruling Congress Government in the state, the administration, the police, the pro-Congress pro-Jotedar anti-social elements and the judicial system and judicial institutions and be forcibly evicted from the lands. The bargadars and the landless, poor and middle peasants, therefore, must unite under the banner of the Paschim Banga Krishak O Khet Majur Federation, spread out a network of its organisation at every corner of the state and organise themselves solidly for a sustained mass movement to repulse these mounting attacks on them. That is the crying need of the day.

SUC Candidates Victorious In Rajgangpur Municipal Election

The candidates of the SUCI were victorious in three seats in the municipal election at Rajgangpur, Orissa. Com. Samar sarkar in ward no. 6, Com. Sumon Toppo in ward no. 8 and Com. Jagadish Chandra Naik in ward no. 14 defeated the candidates of the Congress and other reactionary forces.

In this connection it is to be mentioned that the union of the Orissa Cement Works has been affiliated to the UTUC (Lenin Sarani). The management of this company kept this municipality under its control to evade octroi duty amounting to lakhs of rupees. The SUC led workers' union of the O.C.L. has been attempting to break this control of the management over the municipality by organising the local people. So this victory of the SUC candidates at Rajgangpur municipal election has immensely boosted the fighting morale of the people of the locality and its surroundings.

Punjab Land Grab Scandal

Leaders of Congress, Akali Dal and CPI(M) Involved

Chandigarh, June 29—The Punjab Government under public pressure set up in July, 1972 a Committee of legislators representing different parties in the Legislative Assembly, headed by Mr. Harchand Singh to inquire into the charge of irregular and unauthorised occupation by influential public men and officers of rural evacuee agricultural lands meant for distribution among the landless and poor Harijans of Punjab. The 204-page report of the Committee was released by the Revenue Minister of the state at a press conference here on July 26 last. The report has alleged existence of corruption in high places not only in the ruling Congress and the Akali Party but also in the CPI(M) and the top bureaucracy in the state.

The Committee investigated 126 cases of which 61 had been dropped for want of evidence. In the remaining 65 cases involving 44 persons, the Committee has found proof of affording "opportunity to many an unscrupulous person to occupy vast lands unauthorisedly" and of "undue benefits availed of by the rich and influential public men and officers."

These 44 influential public men and officers include the present Development-cum-Agriculture Minister, Capt. Rattan Singh, the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha, Mr. Darbara Singh, the present Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Gurmej Singh, the Congress MPs, General Mohan Singh and Mr. Davinder Singh Garcha, the Punjab Congress Committee General Secretary Mr. Ujagar Singh MLA, former Minister of the Akali Party, Mr. Sohan Singh Bassi, former MLAs Mr. Bhag Singh, Mr. Gopal Singh Khalsa, Mr. Mukhtiar Singh and Mr. Gurcharan Singh Galib, the CPI(M) leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, the Education Secretary, Mr. Joginder Singh IAS, an IPS officer, 17 provincial service officers and their relatives.

We cite two cases of alleged corruption by two public men as illustration. The report alleges that the present Development-cum-

Agriculture Minister had purchased about 17 acres of land in auction in the names of his wife and the wife of General Mohan Singh MP at a price only Rs 8500 as against the market price of Rs 3 lakh. The Vidhan Sabha Speaker also is alleged to have purchased 99 acres of land in auction in the names of his close relations at a price of Rs 31,000 as against the market price of about Rs 3 lakh. Relevant files show that these purchases are *benami* purchases.

It may be mentioned that nearly 1'20 lakh hectares, i.e., about 2, 96, 520 acres of rural evacuee agricultural land were transferred by the Centre to the Punjab Government for distribution among the landless and poor Harijans of the state. In place of distributing lands to the landless and poor Harijans, the report alleges, these rich and influential persons occupying high position in society, the political parties, government, administration and the different organs of the state have grabbed the lands and set up sizeable agricultural farms thereon, while all the time they were loudly proclaiming from house-tops the necessity of land reforms and distributing lands to the landless and poor Harijans for social justice. Can anything be more hypocritical?

The ruling Congress and

the Akali Party being what they are, this behaviour on the part of their ministers and leaders is not surprising. But if the report of the Committee is to be believed (up till now we do not have any reason to disbelieve it) then the behaviour of Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit is all the more deplorable. For, he is not only a member of the Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) but a top-most leader of the Kisan Sabha led by the CPI(M). His party claims itself to be a Marxist party and he is a champion of the down-trodden masses of the people. How then can he be involved in such an anti-people scandalous affair and how can the CPI(M) remain indifferent to such a serious allegation made by an all-party Committee against one of the members of its Polit Bureau? How can the CPI(M) led Kisan Sabha tolerate such a definitely unethical behaviour against the interests of the landless and poor Harijans on the part of one of its top-most leaders? For, after all it is not just Marxist vocabulary and jargons coming out of one's mouth but one's objective behaviour, sense of morality and culture reflected in day-to-day behaviour, one's whole life in all its aspects, including private life also, that determine whether one is a real communist or a mere wind-bag masquerading as a communist.

It is true that the CPI(M) leader in a press statement has denied having grabbed any land irregularly, as alleged by the Harchand Singh Land Grab Enquiry Committee. But in the press statement he has at the same time admitted that some of his close relations had purchased some lands from a landlord at full market value. Who are these close relations of his who had purchased the lands? What is the amount of lands purchased by them and at what price? Were the lands so purchased by them meant for distribution to the landless and poor

Harijans of Punjab? Are the close relations of his, who had purchased the lands, landless and poor Harijans? When the CPI(M) leader knew that his close relations had purchased the lands in an irregular way to the detriment of the interests of the landless and poor Harijans of Punjab, was it not his moral duty and responsibility as a top political leader of the CPI(M), that claims itself to be a Marxist party, to immediately inform the people and the Government of Punjab of the clandestine and irregular purchase and demand exemplary punishment of his close relations? Why, instead of doing it, did he keep silent all these years and only open his lips when the mala fide purchase was detected and the report of the Committee was published? In the circumstances, is not his declaration in his press statement that "in case the Government found any foul means he and his party would not hesitate to support the Government in retrieving such land" exposed to the charge of lack of bona fide? The CPI(M) leader, to prove his innocence, has taken the plea that not he but his close relations had purchased the lands. That is the case with the Development-cum-Agriculture Minister, the Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha and others also. They too did not purchase the lands, their relatives purchased the lands—that is the position in so far as legal nicety is concerned. If the CPI(M) leader's plea is to be taken as valid then all other persons named against in the report of the Harchand Singh Committee also are to be absolved of the charges of irregular and unauthorised land grabbing and *benami* purchase of lands by them. The plea taken by the CPI(M) leader cannot be accepted as valid. Because, any one, who has some knowledge of the modus operandi of the rich landowners,

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Marxism is the Only Philosophy Which is a Guide to Action to Change the World

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participants in the school, stimulated their thinking and tremendously inspired them to work in the cause of our people whole-heartedly.

Know Truth and Act Correctly

In explaining the aim of acquiring knowledge, Com. Ghosh at the very beginning said that the aim behind pursuit of knowledge could not be anything except to find out the truth and act correctly in the light of the truth to change nature and society. Any other aim would not merely be purposeless but also be definitely against the interest of man and society. But what should be the yardstick of finding out truth? Should it be individual fancy, pre-conception and belief, or, should it be science, its experimented truth? Should any one accept the former then there would be millions of truth and not one truth. It would be absolutely wrong. So, if the views of any person no matter how great and scholarly that person might be, would go against science and the experimented truth of science then those views should be rejected as unsound and inaccurate. Thus those who would want revolution and social progress must base themselves on science and must know the laws governing nature and society, the basic laws that brought about changes in society, the complex and complicated changes that took place with changes in the mode of production, so on and so forth. But to know all these correctly, any and every philosophy, would not do. We must have such a comprehensive system of thought, such a philosophy that would co-ordinate the different branches of science and help us in finding out the truth on the basis of science. Dialectical materialism was that philosophy, Com. Ghosh said.

In tracing the long history of the development of philo-

sophical thoughts, Com. Ghosh showed that Marxism was the only philosophy that stood distinctly different from all other previous philosophies, all its superiority over other philosophies, co-ordinating the different branches of science and basing itself on scientifically experimented truth. Marxism was the only philosophy that had not merely interpreted the world but also provided a scientific weapon in the hands of mankind to correctly know the laws of nature and society and after knowing them, to apply to change the world. Unlike other philosophies. Marxism was a guide to action. All other philosophies had grown and developed basically on individual thinking and realisation. Marxism was the only philosophy that had co-ordinated the different branches of sciences dealing with the general laws governing different actions and inter-actions of matter. In passing Com. Ghosh observed that dialectical materialism or Marxism did not consist in parroting what Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung had written. To know Marxism did not mean to learn by rote the three principles of dialectical materialism or to be able to quote at length the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung. It meant to master the dialectical materialist method, which these Marxist thinkers had used to analyse things at their times and arrive at truth, so as to be able to apply that method correctly in studying and analysing different phenomena of our times, finding out truth and accordingly changing the material world. In explaining the theory of contradictions, Com. Ghosh said that there existed not one but many contradictions within society. Of these contradictions one was the principal

contradiction whose existence and development would determine or influence the existence and development of other contradictions. This principal contradiction should have to be determined and the nature and character of other contradictions in the context of the principal contradiction must be studied. Failure to determine the principal contradiction and its relations with other contradictions in society correctly would make us unable to find out the main enemy and to distinguish our enemies from our friends, it might even push our friends into the camp of the enemy. In short without correct determination of the principal contradiction and its relations with other contradiction in society, it would not be possible for us to even intelligently take part in the revolution, let alone leading the revolution.

Political line of People's Democratic Revolution in our Country objectively boils down to a Programme of Bourgeois National Reformism

In his lengthy analysis of the Indian situation Com. Ghosh said that with the transfer of power on August 15, 1947 by the then British imperialist rulers of our country to the leaders of the Indian National Congress, the political rule of foreign imperialism in India had come to an end, the national reformist section of the Indian bourgeoisie including the big industrial bourgeoisie that was leading the anti-imperialist national liberation movement by the Indian people capturing state power through compromise with the British imperialists and establishing its own state, a bourgeois national state. By this transfer of power, to this extent the bourgeois-democratic revolution in our country was achieved in a

half-baked and truncated way with many of the tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution till then remaining unaccomplished.

Analysing the changes in the economy of the country brought about since the establishment of the bourgeois national state in our country, Com. Ghosh said that notwithstanding the present era of imperialism and proletarian revolution the attitude of the bourgeoisie, particularly of a former colonial country, towards feudalism was compromising, the ruling bourgeoisie in our country had liquidated feudal relations in our land system, though feudal remnants in the forms of habits and custom in rural relationship still existed. He pointed out that though Indian capitalism was much weaker compared to capitalism in the powerful imperialist capitalist countries yet it was not so weak now. It had developed to such a high stage that it had created monopolies, through the merger of bank capital with industrial capital and on the basis of this finance capital had given birth to a financial oligarchy that had been making export of capital as distinguished from export of commodities to the foreign countries and had been increasingly showing imperialist features.

Explaining the nature of the crisis of the capitalist economy of our country in the midst of the third phase of the period of general crisis of world capitalism, Com. Ghosh said that unless the existing capitalist relations of production in our country were replaced in the main by socialist relations of production, our agriculture could not be totally mechanised and modernised, grinding poverty of our people removed, surplus from agriculture properly utilised for industrial development,

As the Real Representative of the Indian Working Class, SUC Alone Has Discharged International Responsibility

present economic backwardness overcome, door of uninterrupted industrial development opened, the unemployment problem solved in our country and the burning problems of our people solved. He stated that the main question of our revolution was to overthrow the bourgeoisie from state power by a revolutionary alliance led by the proletariat. To this extent the bourgeois-democratic revolution had been politically completed and to that extent the Indian revolution was a socialist revolution. But this did not mean that all the anti-feudal and anti-imperialist tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in our country had been completed. The programme of completing the unaccomplished tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in our country was to be incorporated in the programme of socialist revolution for overthrowing the bourgeoisie from state power and smashing the capitalist state machine.

Com. Ghosh in this connection elaborately dealt with the political line of people's democratic revolution of the CPI(M) and that of national democratic revolution of the CPI, explained on the basis of Marxist-Leninist teachings on the stages of revolution and the concrete situation in our country why these formulations of people's democratic revolution and national democratic revolution were absolutely wrong, pointed out how the political lines for people's democratic revolution and national democratic revolution had objectively boiled down to a programme of bourgeois national reformism and showed that in spite of terminological differences, on all fundamental questions of the Indian revolution, the CPI(M) and the CPI had no basic difference.

In tracing the history of the nominally communist parties in our country, Com. Ghosh explained and illustrated how these parties from the very beginning had blindly copied the political line of this or that communist party abroad, committed grave errors of fundamental character on the question of the stage of the revolution in our country and characterised the existing Indian state differently at different times since the independence of the country, though the state had remained the same during this time.

As against this robot-like role of the so-called communist parties in our country, Com. Ghosh brought into clear focus by reference to concrete facts the correct role played by the SUCI as the vanguard of the Indian proletariat not only in analysing the Indian situation but also on every occasion and in the face of every problem confronting the world communist movement and thereby making positive contributions in the sphere of ideology to the world communist movement. In this connection he referred to the published books and literature of the SUCI on different issues confronting the world communist movement.

Cultural and Ethical Standard

Com. Ghosh emphasised on the essential need of continuous upliftment of the cultural and ethical standard of the leaders and ranks of a real communist party if they wanted to discharge their roles correctly in leading the people to power through revolution. The nobility of an ideology lay in its ethics and without acquiring higher standard of culture, sense of moral values and character, by simply paying lip service to revolution, none could become a revolutionary. Whether a particular party

was a genuine communist party or not, whether it was correctly and sincerely practising Marxism or not, could be easily judged by the cultural, ethical and aesthetic standard reflected in the day-to-day behaviour and way of life of the leaders and ranks of that party. Those who had adopted Marxism as their ideal could not but have a higher cultural and ethical standard, in as much as proletarian ideal was much superior to bourgeois ideal and to accept Marxism meant to apply it in one's own life and be engaged in struggle to continuously remould oneself and to change society. If we would refuse to accept Marxism as a philosophy of life in this way, it would be reduced to a lifeless outer coating. But the day-to-day behaviour and way of life of the leaders of the so-called communist parties in our country did not reflect this higher cultural and ethical standard which could attract the people. On the contrary,

they had expressed such a low standard of culture and sense of morality and aesthetics that the people had lost much of the regard and attraction which they once held for the communist ideal. In the circumstances, it was an essential though a difficult task to bring back that sense of regard and attraction of our people for the communist ideal.

In conclusion Com. Ghosh urged upon the workers of the SUCI to rise to the occasion and take upon themselves the responsibility of performing this task. They would have to set examples of higher standard of culture, sense of morality and aesthetics by their behaviour and way of life before the people, a standard even higher than what had been set by Kshudiram, Deshbandhu, Netaji Subhas and others during the period of our freedom struggle. Only then would we be able to attract the people and make our revolution victorious.

Assam State Committee of U.T.U.C. (Lenin Sarani)'s Statement

Com. Pravat Khatnir, Joint Secretary of the Assam State Committee of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) extended his full fledged support to the just movement of NFR Loco Running Staff and released the following statement:

Due to the sheer negligence of the management towards the justified demands of the loco running staff of NFR, imposition of DIR on them, refusal to fix 8 hours working hour instead of 14 hours and division of labour, reluctance in filling in the vacant posts etc. the NFR Loco Staff Association has been forced to resort to 'work to rule' movement. The railway authority has been trying to suppress the movement by police atrocity

and three representatives of the association have already been arrested. The Assam State Committee of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) is strongly condemning such vindictive and suppressive measures taken by the railway authority and the police and is demanding immediate release of the arrested office bearers of the association followed by steps to call a bi-partite meeting in order to meet the above demands. The railway authority has been motivatedly describing this 'work to rule' movement as a strike to fool the people and make them hostile to the agitating staff.

The UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Assam State
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Ration-Cut In West Bengal Anti-People Food Policy of Congress

Calcutta, July 7—The Chief Minister of West Bengal assured on 26th June last that there would be no cut in rice quota and no change in the total quantum of supply of cereals to the people in the areas under statutory rationing. Like all his earlier assurances and tall promises, this assurance also has proved to be a hoax of the first degree. For, the Government has decided to reduce the quota of rice ration by 250 grammes from 1000 grammes to 750 grammes and increase wheat quota by 50 grammes per head per week from the rationing week commencing from July 9, 1973. The net result of this decision of the ruling Congress Government is that in the statutory rationing areas the total quantum of supply of cereals to the people has come down from the said date to 2000 grammes per head per week.

The supply of 2000 grammes of cereals per week works out to be about 142.85 grammes per meal, which, candidly speaking, falls much below the genuine requirement of any individual. In plain language, this decision of the ruling Congress Government has compelled the people in the statutory rationing areas to tighten their belts to the utmost and undergo semi-starvation every day. This cut in the supply of cereals will affect not the rich but the poor and the middle class people the most, inasmuch as they are not in a position to make good the loss in ration-cut by taking other kinds of food, all of which are much above their purchasing power.

We know that the Congress leaders and the ministers in the state, with the ulterior motive of poisoning the mind of the rural poor against the people in the areas under statutory rationing in their bid to foil any mass movement against this very unjust ration cut, will shed crocodile tears over the distress of the people in the areas under modified rationing. That this so-called sympathetic stance of the Congress rulers towards the rural people is hypocritical is established by the fact of criminal indifference on the part of the modern princes, the Congress big guns, towards the acute

sufferings of the rural population. In the areas under modified rationing, there is practically no supply of rice or wheat. The prices of cereals and flour have by now reached alarming proportions many many times above the purchasing power of the people. As a result, the rural poor are actually starving and even there are reports of starvation death in the villages, which at present are euphemistically termed as death due to malnutrition in official circles.

Against this background of acute sufferings of the general public due to absence of supply of food articles and their soaring prices, the Jotedars, big agriculturists, hoarders, speculators and the black marketeers are having a heyday under the 'beneign' rule of their benefactors, the ruling Congress bosses. The Government, in utter disregard for public demand, social justice and common sense, has refused to impose levy on surplus produce of the Jotedars and big agriculturists and allowed them to corner stocks of paddy, rice and wheat and manipulate their prices to fleece the people and gain maximum profits. There is no drive by the administration and the police to dehoard cornered and concealed stocks of food articles either. On the contrary, wherever the local people have moved to dehoard

Punjab Land Grab Scandal CPM Leader Must Prove Innocence

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knows very well that fraudulent transfer including sale and purchase of lands in all cases is made not in the name of the actual transferee, here the purchaser, but in the names of his or her relatives or agents or even fictitious non-existent persons. How does one know that the fact that lands had been purchased not in the name of the CPI(M) leader himself but in the names of his close relations is not a case of *benami* purchase of the lands?

The member of the Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) has stated in the press statement that the Committee has motivatedly dragged his name

cornered and concealed rice and paddy, they have been intimidated by the local Congress leaders, the Jotedars and the police and even arrested and detained without trial under the MISA. When the Chief Minister and the Food Minister of the state do not feel shy to openly side with the Jotedars and big agriculturists, the hoarders and speculators and refuse to impose levy on them and control prices, it is no wonder that the administration and the police will go whole hog in favour of these anti-social persons engaged in food racket and arrest and detain without trial the people striving to dehoard cornered and concealed food articles. The whole thing is a clear proof of the anti-people character of the ruling Congress and its Government. Only organised and united mass struggles led by a real revolutionary working class party can put an end to the present sufferings of the people.

in order "to tarnish the image of his party". We know that a political party like the Congress having no scruple in the matter of maligning its political opponents may very well do it. But in that case Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, the concerned leader of the CPI(M), and his party must prove their innocence at the bar of public opinion and public conscience in our country by refuting each and every charge against the CPI(M) leader, as made out in the report of the Committee, with the help of objective facts. Unless that is proved, the doubt of *benami* purchase of evacuee agricultural lands meant to be distributed among the landless and poor Harijans of Punjab by the CPI(M) leader will linger in mass mind. This doubt among the masses will not merely tarnish the image of the CPI(M), a brother left party of ours, but also arm the reactionary parties and forces in our country with a convenient instrument of slanderous campaign against leftism, left and democratic parties in general and united democratic mass movements conducted by them. This doubt in mass mind, unless it is completely washed out, is apt to alienate the people from the left and democratic parties, causing serious damage to the genuine interests of the people themselves. Considering all these things, we demand that every step should be taken by the left and democratic parties, not excluding the CPI(M) itself, to find out the truth, taking the people into confidence, and openly declare the truth in public to allay all doubts and suspicion in mass mind about the matter.

Dog-Fights Within Congress For Power and Pelf Myth of Stable Government Exploded

In their election campaigns the ruling Congress leaders from the Prime Minister of India to the state leaders exhorted the people to vote for the ruling Congress candidates in order to establish stable governments in the respective states and at the centre and achieve development of the country as a whole with social justice. Facts have completely exploded the myth of stable governments run by the ruling Congress party in our country and other tall promises made by the leaders:

It started with the Andhra Pradesh Government. Mr. Brahmananda Reddy was replaced by Mr. Narsingh Rao by the Congress High Command at New Delhi not to fight corruption and tone up the administration and introduce pro-people measures but to satisfy the claims and counter claims of different factions within the Andhra Pradesh Congress committee coming from the different parts of the state. Such an imposition by the Centre of a Chief Minister on the state, particularly when the Congress itself is a divided house led by this or that group, can not but ultimately lead to in-fights within Congress itself. And this actually happened in case of Andhra Pradesh. The question of continuance or discontinuance of the Mulki Rules was picked up to start the open fights between different groups within the Andhra Pradesh Congress committee. In order to enlist popular support, each of the main contending groups was out to show them off as defenders of popular interest of Andhra Pradesh. But their real intention was to anyhow capture governmental power and loot the people of the state. But since this can not be said openly the issue of the Mulki Rule was raised.

In Orissa the same thing happened. Firstly the Congress leaders and Ministers at the Centre had adopted the policy of bringing down all the non-Congress Governments in the states where they existed, by any means. So defection from the then

ruling Coalition party, i.e. the Swatantra Party and the Utkal Congress was engineered by Central Congress Ministers and other top Congress leaders. Huge amount of black money collected by the ruling party from the monopolists was used for the purpose of causing defection. This was supplemented by the false promise given to the would-be defectors to make them Ministers in the new Congress-led Ministry. The result was the fall of the coalition government in Orissa and the installation of a Congress Ministry in its place. Defection from other parties became as pure and divine as anything conceivable at the hands of the Congress rulers when it was directed to serve their own purpose. Mrs. Nandini Satpathi was imposed by the Centre on Orissa as its Chief Minister. Such a Government torn with internal groupism and dog-fight can not last long. And what was inevitable actually happened earlier than expected.

Orissa was followed by Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, like the Congress Committees in other states, is torn with groups. So here also the same tale of factionalism, the same craziness for power and pelf, the same motive to loot the people of Uttar Pradesh worked. The plea was the question of revolt in the PAC in the state and because of factionalism Kamalapati's Ministry came to an end.

In Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh

President's rule had to be imposed. Because the dog-fights within the Congress were so bitter that an alternative choice of the leader could not be made. In Bihar when Mr. Kedar Pandey was imposed as Chief Minister by the Centre, it was a foregone conclusion that his Ministry would not last long. Factionalism raised its ugly head, resulting in the ultimate downfall of Pandey's Ministry. Mr. Ghafoor has now become the Chief Minister of Bihar. But it is certain that time is not far off when Kedar Pandey's group will cross sword with the ruling group making the position of the Ministry unstable. When money collected from big business flows freely to purchase votes of the MLAs, when false hopes are given to enlist support of the MLAs, and when every MLA expects to be a Minister as a price for his support to bring about the downfall of Kedar Pandey, it is clear that Ghafoor Ministry's life would not be very long.

The history of Bihar was repeated in Gujrat. Chief Minister, Mr. Oza, sensing the mood of the dissidents, had tendered resignation. Up to the time of writing this article different groups in the Gujrat Congress Committee have not been able to choose a leader who can be Chief Minister of the State. But whoever becomes the Chief Minister, so long as factionalism and squabble will continue and craziness for power and pelf will reign supreme history will be repeated. There will not be any stable Ministry in the state.

Other states present no different picture. In Madhya Pradesh two former Chief Ministers are engaged in open conspiracies to oust the present Chief Minister of the state from power and position. In Mysore the

situation is no better. Different groups are at work to bring about the downfall of the present Ministry. In Punjab factionalism has come to the surface so openly that a section of the present Ministers is waging a campaign against other Ministers and the speaker of the Vidhan Sabha. It is now a question of time when the Ministry in these three states will be toppled.

In West Bengal dog-fights within the Congress have taken a violent turn resulting in the murders of not only ordinary workers of the ruling Congress party but also of an MLA. The in-fights between the different groups within the Congress have become so bitter and intense that no group is feeling secure from violent murderous attacks by the supporters of the other group. The number of murders, decoities, armed clashes by Congress men in West Bengal therefore, is increasing by leaps and bounds. To stop these dog-fights, a 22 point programme has been adopted, but this programme too has failed to check factional violent fights as it is bound to fail.

These factional fights are the reflections of fights between different groups that exist in the leadership of the Central Congress party and the different Ministers. Every one knows that group rivalry between the Union Home Minister Mr. Uma Sankar Dikshit and the Railway Minister Mr. L. N. Mishra was the cause of the downfall of the Kedar Pandey Ministry. It is also a known fact that the Union Minister Mr. Bahuguna's contribution in bringing down Tripathi's Ministry in Uttar Pradesh is not small. Besides these bitter rivalries within the Congress do not involve any difference on any principle or policy. Different groups are saying that the difference is that of personalities which

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Dog-Fights Within Congress

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in other words means difference over matters as to who will rule the state and loot the people, a mutual squabble for power and pelf. Then again it must also be mentioned that each of the group leaders holding high position in the Central Government or the State Government is collecting money from the monopolists and spending it to cause defection from the opposing camp and win the battle against the rival group. This is not just a guess work but an objective reality which is established by the charges and counter charges made by one group against its rival.

One striking feature of all these toppling of ministries is that the administrative neutrality and constitutional provisions have been seriously undermined by Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her Government. Starting from complete rigging of elections in some states during the last general elections to the current events of instability of ministries in the different states in order to save her party and influence Mrs. Gandhi has adopted the most undemocratic methods giving no scope to the elected representatives to decide the future of the state. It is the crisis within the Congress party, a crisis born out of excessive greed for power on the part of Congress legislators which led her to fling aside the last remnants of democratic functioning of administration. So who is butchering democracy? Who is waxing eloquent on the sanctity of the constitution and at the same-time ruthlessly using the administration and the constitution to serve sectarian party interest and personal influence over the party? It is Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her party the most trusted representative of the Indian monopolists that is doing all these treacherous deeds.

The toiling people of our country have learnt by now

quite a good deal about the ruling party's intentions and performances. So much talk of Congress about 'garibi hatao', curbing of prices of essential commodities, solving the acute unemployment problem, bringing in radical land reforms fulfilling people's aspirations by making use of stable popular administrations etc. have come to nought. To any class conscious and democratic minded person it is clear that the Congress which is wedded to the task of safeguarding the interests of monopolists, the jotedars and other vested people is unable to fulfil any of its loud promises made to the people, whether they run stable Governments or not. Even if the Congress ministries were stable the people would not have got any benefit because of the anti-people character of the Congress Government. It is the cause of the most discredited class, the ruling capitalist class of our country that the Congress is apt to uphold. The corruption within Congress, the presence of career-seekers and opportunists within the party who feel no obligation to the society and the people are but the natural outcome of rotten bourgeois rule, bourgeois ideology and sense of morality and human values of the Congress which are hindering our social progress at every step. Things are bound to become worse if the capitalist class remains in power. The Congress leaders make lies to the people every now and then to serve their real masters, the capitalists. Their pledge to form stable Governments in different states was such a lie only to secure votes and capture power through election. Their oath on democracy and socialism was really an oath to befool the masses and serve the aggregate interest of capitalism in our country. The sooner our people realise this truth, the greater will be our effort to dislodge from power our main enemy, the Indian capitalists.

Ban on Strike by F C I Employees

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workers in industrial establishments and the daily life of common men in our country are being most prejudicially affected by failure to maintain supply of electric power by the authorities, there is no invocation of the DIR by the Congress rulers. But when the people move either to dehoard food articles cornered and concealed by the big agriculturists, the hoarders and the black marketeers, or to put pressure on the monopolists to reduce the prices of some essential commodities or organise democratic movements against the Government demanding regular and adequate supply of food grains under rationing at fair prices, stern action against the hoarders and the black marketeers or the revision of wages according to actual cost of living then the Congress rulers feel that the defence of India is at stake and so the DIR is invoked against the struggling people. It is no wonder, therefore, that when the employees of the FCI have been agitating on the demand of revision of their pay scales according to the actual cost

of living, the payment of bonus at higher rate to them, etc., the DIR has been invoked and any strike by them has been banned for six months on the plea, among others, of defence of India. This is the practice of the fascists of every country at all times.

The attack on the FCI employees and the railwaymen by the Central Government is not an isolated affair. It is a part of the total policy and practice of the ruling bourgeoisie and the Congress rulers in our country to slowly but steadily push the country along the fascist path consistently curtailing the democratic rights of the people. Politically conscious masses of the people organised under the leadership of a real revolutionary party and determined to carry on sustained mass movements against the ruling bourgeoisie and the present Congress rulers alone can check these mounting fascistic attacks on them. Our people should realise it and act accordingly.

Demonstration at Calcutta

On 10th July last eight left and democratic parties organised a massive demonstration to protest against the ration-cut, a normal increase in prices of essential commodities, acute electricity crisis, mounting unemployment problem etc. and demanded among others immediate measures to halt the price rise, distribution of essential commodities through state trading and stern action against hoarders, black marketeers and monopolists who cornered and concealed food articles and other essential commodities to manipulate prices.

At Esplanade East the leaders of different political parties addressed the gathering. Those who spoke were Prasanta Sur (CPM) Gayatri Das Gupta (SUC) Ramesh Sarkar (RSP) Shanti Ganguly (FB) Sunil Das (WP) Chitta Singha Roy (RCPI) and others.

Assam State Committee's Statement

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Committee firmly hopes that the Loco Running Staff Association would continue their movement until their demands are met.

Lastly, it requested the Assam Government and the railway authority to refrain from taking all undemocratic and suppressive measures and to meet amicably the workers' just demands. It also urged upon the democratic minded people and the working class of Assam in particular and India in general to rally behind the struggling workers to frustrate all kinds of provocation and motivated campaign of the Government for bringing the struggle to a success.